

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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March 27, 2015

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**Fire Department receives two grants:** The Fire Prevention Division was notified last week that they were the recipients of two grants. The first grant of \$2500 from FM Global is to provide smoke alarms to the hearing impaired. Under this program, the Fire Dept. is partnering with Pfau's Hardware to purchase the special smoke alarms at cost. The second grant from the Fair Plan is to purchase special high intensity flashlights for fire inspections and investigations.

**Budget Public Hearings:** The Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Proposed Town Budget, which includes the town services budget, the capital financing budget and the education budget, was submitted to the Town Council on March 10. The proposed mill rate is 38.67. The public has an opportunity to voice their opinions at an upcoming public hearing on Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30 PM in Room 314, Town Hall.

**West Hartford Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development:** Mark McGovern, Director of Community Services, gave his annual [economic development report](#) at the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce event on March 26. The update include a discussion of the local economy with a focus on new and renewing development and construction. The presentation included commercial, small business, manufacturing and residential projects throughout West Hartford.

**Organizers of the Memorial Day Parade invite groups to focus on veterans:** The West Hartford Veterans' Commission is asking participants to do something to honor a veteran during the May 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade. Honoring a veteran can be as simple as asking a veteran to walk with your group or having members of your group carry a placard with a photograph of a veteran that has his/her name and years of service. The veteran may be a

family member, a special friend or perhaps an historical figure that you would like to honor on this special day. This new feature of the parade will reinforce the message of this unique holiday. If your group has participated in the past or would like to this year, please email your organization's contact information to [whmemorialdayparade@yahoo.com](mailto:whmemorialdayparade@yahoo.com)

**How is the Pay by Plate kiosks and PassportParking Ap doing?** The [Municipal Parking Office](#) reported that since the installation of the new Pay by Plate kiosks on June 16, 2014, there has been on average 3000 transactions made per day, 75% by credit card. With 500 metered spaces in West Hartford Center, each space turns over 5-6 times on average per day. Statistics show that the average fee per transaction increased from \$1.75 in July 2014 to \$2.08 in February 2015, indicating visitors are staying longer in the Central Business District.

The Pay-by-License Plate system offers much more flexibility and convenience than the coin meters. A visitor could park on LaSalle Rd. and then move to a space on Farmington Avenue and still be covered under one parking session.

In addition, the Municipal Parking Office has seen a dramatic increase in visitors using the new PassportParking mobile app each month since the program was launched on August 7, 2014. There were 707 mobile ap transactions during the first month and \$1,789.50 in fees collected. In February, 2015, there were 2,239 transactions and \$6,538.75 fees collected.

The trend is an indicator of consumer's value for convenience. The app allow visitors to perform the transaction from their mobile devices instead of the kiosk as well as add time when the session is about to expire.

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Town Manager